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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)


2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A data network comprising:

a sending node;

a receiving node coupled to receive a plurality of data information packets from  
the sending node; andat least a first and second transmission channel coupled to the sending and  
receiving nodes, wherein each data information packet transmitted across  
the network is selected for transmission on one of the first and second  
transmission channels according to predetermined criteria and wherein the  
predetermined criteria includes ~~at least one selected from the set of a type  
of operation associated with the data information packet,~~ security needs of  
the data information packet ~~and reliability needs of the data information  
packet~~ and wherein one of the first and second transmission channels is  
coupled to transmit control information relating to network protocol  
according to the predetermined criteria.6. (Currently amended) The data network recited in claim 4 5, wherein a  
software program allocates the data information packet to one of the transmission  
channels according to at least one of the predetermined criteria.7. (Original) The data network recited in claim 6, wherein the software  
program is one of a user program and a system program.

8. (Previously presented) A data network comprising:

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a sending node;  
a receiving node coupled to receive a plurality of data information packets from  
the sending node; and  
at least a first and second transmission channel coupled to the sending and  
receiving nodes, wherein each data information packet transmitted across  
the network is selected for transmission on one of the first and second  
transmission channels according to predetermined criteria and wherein the  
predetermined criteria includes a type of operation associated with the data  
information packet and  
wherein the type of operation includes a synchronization operation.

9. (Original) The data network recited in claim 8, wherein the  
synchronization operation includes at least one of a lock operation, an atomic read-  
modify-write operation, and a fetch-and-increment operation.

10. (Currently amended) The data network recited in claim ~~4~~ 5 wherein the  
data network is a switched data network having at least one switch for each channel.

11. (Currently amended) The data network recited in claim ~~4~~ 5 wherein at  
least one of the sending node and the receiving node includes a plurality of buffer  
descriptors identifying memory segments containing data.

12. (Currently amended) The data network recited in claim ~~4~~ 5 wherein the  
sending node and the receiving node are nodes within a cluster network.

13. (Currently amended) The data network as recited in claim ~~4~~ 5 wherein a  
node includes separate send and receive buffers for the first and second transmission  
channels.

14. (Currently amended) A data network comprising:  
a sending node;

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a receiving node coupled to receive a plurality of data information packets from the sending node; and

at least a first and second transmission channel coupled to the sending and receiving nodes, wherein each data information packet transmitted across the network is selected for transmission on one of the first and second transmission channels according to predetermined criteria wherein the first and second transmission channels are, respectively, a low latency channel for transmitting data packets meeting a low latency criteria, and a high bandwidth channel for transmitting data packets meeting a high bandwidth criteria; ~~and~~

a scheduler circuit for the high bandwidth channel coupled to the high bandwidth channel and low latency channel; and wherein the scheduler circuit is coupled to receive a request sent into the low latency channel, the request requesting permission to transmit a packet over the high bandwidth channel, the scheduler logic responsive to the request to provide a grant indication over the low latency channel indicating the request was granted; and

wherein the grant indication is transferred with a higher priority across the low latency channel than other low latency traffic.

15. (Original) The data network as recited in claim 14 wherein the grant indication is provided at a fixed time relative to a predetermined time period, and the grant indication synchronizes nodes of the network to the predetermined time period.

16. (Original) The data network as recited in claim 14 wherein the grant indication includes a unique identifier corresponding to a number of an output port through which the grant indication was sent and wherein during node initialization, a node coupled to the output port listens to grant packets and uses the unique identifier as its node identifier in subsequent transactions over the data network.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The data network as recited in claim 14 wherein the request indication, the grant indication and an acknowledge indication are always sent at different times over the

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low latency channel, thereby avoiding collisions between the request indication, the grant indication and the acknowledge indication, the acknowledge indication being sent by a receiving node over the low latency channel to indicate successful receipt of information sent over the high bandwidth channel.

19. (Currently amended) A data network comprising:
- a sending node;
  - a receiving node coupled to receive a plurality of data information packets from the sending node; and
  - at least a first and second transmission channel coupled to the sending and receiving nodes, wherein each data information packet transmitted across the network is selected for transmission on one of the first and second transmission channels according to predetermined criteria wherein the first and second transmission channels are, respectively, a low latency channel for transmitting data packets meeting a low latency criteria, and a high bandwidth channel for transmitting data packets meeting a high bandwidth criteria, and wherein a receiving node sends an acknowledge indication over the low latency channel, the acknowledge indication indicating successful receipt of information sent over the high bandwidth channel and wherein the acknowledge indication is transferred with a higher priority across the low latency channel than other low latency traffic.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) The data network as recited in claim 5 wherein at least one of the first and second transmission channels have characteristics facilitating transfer based on the predetermined criteria.

22. (Currently amended) A method for transmitting data traffic between at least a first and second node in a network having at least a first and second transmission channel, the method comprising:

organizing the data traffic prior to transmission across the network into at least a first and second group according to predetermined criteria;

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transmitting the first group of the data traffic over the first transmission channel and the second group of the data traffic over the second transmission channel wherein the first and second transmission channels are respectively a high bandwidth channel and a low latency channel; ~~and~~  
scheduling transmittal of data traffic across the high bandwidth channel using control information transmitted over the low latency channel; and  
transmitting control information relating to network protocol over one of the first and second transmission channels along with one of the first and second groups of data traffic.

23. (Original) The method recited in claim 22 wherein the first and second transmission channels are independent.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) The method recited in claim 24 22 wherein the first group of data traffic is transmitted over the low latency channel, the low latency channel for transmitting data packets meeting a low latency criteria; and wherein the second group of data traffic is transmitted over the a high bandwidth channel, the high bandwidth channel for transmitting data packets meeting a high bandwidth criteria.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) The method recited in claim 25 further comprising:  
transferring the control information across the low latency channel with a higher priority than the first group of data traffic transferred across the low latency channel, the control information being related to scheduling of the high bandwidth channel.

28. (Original) The method as recited in claim 27 wherein the higher priority prevents the control information from being dropped.

29. (Previously presented) The method recited in claim 25 further comprising:

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transmitting smaller sized data packets across the low latency channel with limited scheduling; and  
transmitting highly scheduled large sized data packets across the high bandwidth channel.

30. (Previously presented) A method for transmitting data traffic between at least a first and second node in a network having at least a first and second transmission channel, the method comprising:

organizing the data traffic prior to transmission across the network into at least a first and second group according to predetermined criteria; and

transmitting the first group of the data traffic over the first transmission channel and the second group of the data traffic over the second transmission channel wherein the predetermined criteria includes a security level of the data packet and wherein one of the first and second transmission channels is coupled to transmit control information relating to network protocol according to the predetermined criteria.

31. (Original) The method recited in claim 30 further comprising:  
allocating data packets to one of the transmission channels according to the predetermined criteria.

32. (Original) The method recited in claim 22 wherein at least one of the transmission channels is associated with a plurality of lists of buffer descriptors, the lists of buffer descriptors related to a plurality of memory segments.

33. (Currently amended) An apparatus for transmitting data traffic and control information between at least a first and second node of a network, the control information related to protocol of the network, the apparatus comprising:

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means for organizing the data traffic into at least a first and second group according to predetermined criteria;

means for transmitting the data traffic using an independent transmission channel for the first and second group;

means for transmitting the control information across one of the transmission channels;

means for transmitting the second group of the data traffic having high bandwidth characteristics; and

means for transmitting the first group of the data traffic having low latency characteristics;

wherein the predetermined criteria includes a security level of the data traffic.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently amended) A computer program product encoded in at least one computer readable medium, the computer program product comprising:  
code executable to select one of at least two independent transmission channels of a network for transmission of data according to criteria associated with the data;  
and  
code executable to write the data into one of the two independent transmission channels;  
wherein the two independent transmission ~~channels~~ channels include a low latency channel for transmitting data packets meeting a low latency criteria, and a high bandwidth channel for transmitting data packets meeting a high bandwidth criteria and wherein information relating to scheduling of the high bandwidth channel is transmitted over the low latency channel; and

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wherein the code writes the data into one of the two independent transmission channels  
by writing into a buffer associated therewith.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 36, wherein the at least one computer readable medium is selected from the set of a disk, tape or other magnetic, optical, or electronic storage medium and a network, wireline, wireless or other communications medium.

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